

NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

2001 MATCHING AWARDS PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization established by Congress in 1990 to support the USDA Forest Service (FS) in its management of the nation's forests and grasslands. The NFF Matching Awards Program encourages community involvement in the stewardship of national forest lands through the formation of goal-oriented partnerships. By matching federal funds (provided to it under a cooperative agreement with the Forest Service) to private dollars, the NFF is able to expand the resources available to implement projects throughout the National Forest System that directly benefit forest and grassland health.

After a two-year hiatus, the NFF's Matching Awards Program is being re-initiated in 2001, with revised programmatic priorities and a focus on six geographic areas. A common thread connecting NFF's four areas of emphasis -- Collaborative Stewardship, Watershed Health & Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Improvement, and Recreational Opportunities Enhancement -- is an interest in projects that enhance natural community viability while considering benefits to people.

The NFF will accept applications from non-governmental organizations working in, or adjacent to, national forests and grasslands, with preference given to proposed projects in the six geographic focus areas: Southern Appalachians, Oregon Coastal Watersheds and Central Cascadia, Selway/Bitterroot Complex, Central Colorado Rockies, Central Sierras, and Central Appalachians. During the first round of proposals, NFF plans to emphasize three geographic areas: Southern Appalachians, Oregon Coastal Watersheds and Central Cascadia, and the Selway/Bitterroot Complex. For the NFF 2001 Matching Awards Program, \$1.48 million is available for projects in the geographic focus areas, and \$370,000 is available for innovative projects outside of the focus areas.

All grants awarded by the NFF require a cash match through private donations. The ratio is a 1:1 match of private cash contributions. In-kind contributions may be noted to show leverage for a project, but will not be matched by federal funds. Projects must be completed within a year from project award date.

Programmatic Emphasis:

Collaborative Stewardship:

The National Forest Foundation believes that communities can work to improve forest health, while at the same time providing local economic benefits. Working locally and regionally to build stewardship capacity, we can improve the quality of natural resource management outcomes, while educating and building an informed constituency.

The NFF will make strategic investments in collaborative stewardship projects, particularly those that focus on forest health and restoration. We will work to foster opportunities for economically sustainable natural resource use, address wildfire risk reduction and response, and build community capacity to participate in stewardship through training or education.

Watershed Health & Restoration:

National forest lands are the largest single source of fresh water in the United States. The water sources that begin on the national forest lands bring life to agricultural lands and clean water to communities, and have a conservatively estimated value of at least \$3.7 billion per year. Protecting these watersheds is one of the primary reasons the Forest Service was established, and maintaining or restoring the health of watersheds is of vital importance. The patchwork of federal and non-federal lands in many watersheds makes partnerships even more crucial to ensuring clean water and healthy forests.

The NFF supports large-scale watershed restoration and enhancement projects that improve forest health and water quality. In addition, initiatives that address critical issues that now face many watersheds, such as risk of severe wildfires, invasion of exotic species, and non-point source pollution are of interest.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement:

The diverse habitats found within the national forests and grasslands support more than 3,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians. Additionally, engaging in hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing within these habitats, serves as the primary means of connection to the outdoors for many Americans, and provides important revenue for national and local economies.

The NFF will invest in actions that improve conditions for the maintenance of viable populations of native plants and animals, while meeting public demand for hunting, wildlife viewing and appreciation.

Recreational Opportunities Enhancement:

Recreation is the fastest growing use of national forests and grasslands. In 2000, 75 percent of the Forest Service's revenue was generated by recreation and tourism. With this increased visitor usage comes the resultant pressures on these ecosystems. The NFF and FS believe that maintaining the integrity of these forest and grassland resources is vital for both ecosystem viability and a quality recreational experience. Through proper planning, education, and local action, the NFF can help work to ameliorate these pressures and ease their effects on public lands, while still providing economic benefits to the surrounding communities.

The NFF is particularly interested in projects that address the rising demand for outdoor recreation in national forests and grasslands within the context of wise and appropriate land use. Projects that focus on carrying capacity and access issues, reduce the effects of excessive or inappropriate use, improve or enhance recreational resources, or increase recreational impact awareness and education are of importance.

Who Can Apply:

Applications will be accepted from non-federal partners, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and other non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria. Successful projects will:

1. Support Forest Service major strategic initiatives and/or complement the agency's and the NFF's strategic plans. Priority will be given to projects in the areas of collaborative stewardship, watershed health and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreational opportunities enhancement.
2. Improve the conditions of national forests for water, wildlife, and people, with preference in Round 1 given to three geographic focus areas: Southern Appalachians, Oregon Coastal Watersheds and Central Cascadia, and the Selway/Bitterroot Complex.
3. Have funding that is matched on a one-to-one basis by private contributions. In-kind contributions may be accounted for in the total project budget to demonstrate leverage. Special consideration will be given to projects that have private cash and in-kind support in a ratio greater than 1:1.
4. Take place on, or directly benefit national forests and grasslands, or be directly related to Forest Service programs. Projects can occur on adjacent watersheds if they directly benefit FS lands.
5. Have multiple benefits to the resource base and surrounding communities.
6. Have a learning component which can be shared with resource managers and local communities to improve awareness and appreciation of the issues addressed by the project.
7. Demonstrate a commitment to, and a detailed plan for, community involvement/participation in the development and implementation of the project.
8. Provide sufficient detail to enable the NFF and the Forest Service to identify substantiality in character and design of the project, qualifications of the project manager, the ability of the sub-awardee to complete the project, and a way to measure its benefits.
9. Be consistent with the administrative and legal requirements of the master Cooperative Agreement between the NFF and the Forest Service.

The NFF does not fund projects that are seeking general operating support, or cannot produce a 1:1 non-federal cash match.

Federal Matching Funds Requirements:

Federal funds awarded through this program can be disbursed only as a match to cash contributions from a non-federal source. These federal matching funds:

- Must be used for the purpose of completing projects on National Forest System land or to implement Forest Service programs that meet the intent of the appropriated funds.
- Cannot be used for general administrative purposes. Standard overhead assessments may not be made against either the federal or non-federal funds made available for each project.

All non-federal funds and documentation of contributed goods and services must be sent directly to the NFF. Once the non-federal contributions have been documented and received by the NFF, the grant

recipient must submit an invoice (“Cash Request Form”) to the NFF to receive the non-federal cash and appropriate federal matching funds.

Application Process:

Applicants must first submit a pre-proposal to the NFF. Pre-proposals may be submitted through the mail or via the NFF’s website (<http://www.natlforests.org/>). Early application is encouraged.

Pre-proposals must include the pre-proposal cover sheet and a brief project summary (1-2 pages) containing objectives, methods, anticipated results, and a projected budget that indicates how NFF matching funds and non-federal funds will be used. Please type the project title and name of your organization at the top of each page. Pre-proposals should include:

- Staff qualifications and organization’s track record
- What the project will accomplish and specific, demonstrable benefits the project would have to the national forest and surrounding community
- Relevance of proposed project to the NFF’s & FS’s goals and priorities
- How the project will be monitored and evaluated
- Those involved in the project, including the project implementers, private donors, and other community organizations
- A detailed project budget

Applicants will be notified via email when their pre-proposal is received. The NFF will review the pre-proposals and contact selected candidates to submit full proposals. Full proposals will require written support from the Forest Service district within which the projects occur.

Application Deadlines:

The submission dates for the 2001 Matching Awards Program are as follows:

Round 1:

Pre-proposals due:	July 20, 2001
Pre-proposal decisions:	August 10, 2001
Full proposals due:	September 21, 2001
Final proposals selected:	October 8, 2001

Round 2:

Pre-proposals due:	September 21, 2001
Pre-proposal decisions:	October 8, 2001
Full proposals due:	November 5, 2001
Final proposals selected:	November 19, 2001

Contacts:

National Forest Foundation:
Laura Dunleavy, 202-496-4963, Conservation Programs Officer

Forest Service, Washington Office:
Bob Lange, 202-205-0931, National Partnership Coordinator

**NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION
2001 MATCHING AWARDS PROGRAM
PRE-PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

Date Received: _____ Project #: 01-CA-_____
(Do not write above this line)

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Organization: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Web Address: _____

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Title: _____

Two Sentence Project Summary:

Location of Project (State, Forest, District, Site): _____

Commencement Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

Project Head: _____

Number: _____ Email address: _____

FUNDS:

National Forest Foundation funds requested: \$ _____

Private Donor Funds:

Donor: _____ Amount: \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____



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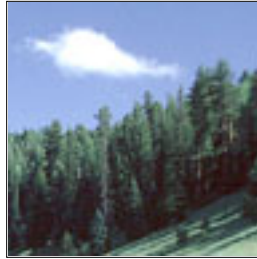
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NFF's New Look

The National Forest Foundation is changing. We are developing a new strategic vision (see story on the right) - and we're redesigning our website!



Over the next couple of weeks, come see the site as it progresses, and feel free to [give us your feedback](#).



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